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grupo de rua

Bruno Beltrão, Artistic Director

Bruno Beltrão was born in Niterói, near Rio de Janeiro, in 1979. In 1993 he began his first street dance lessons, in Niterói, with the Israeli teacher Yoram Szabo. From 1995 on, he engaged in a research to get thoroughly acquainted with this dance style, still quite unheard of in Brazil.

In 1996 he created the company, Grupo de Rua de Niterói, with his partner Rodrigo Bernardi. During its first two years, the company was devoted to competitive dance festivals and special appearances in several events and TV shows. In 2000 GRN participated in the international tour of "Metrópole" with the Midnight Circus, from the French director Pierrot Bidon. This was also the year when Beltrão enrolled in the dance university

In 2001 the duet "Do Popping ao Pop ou Vice-Versa" premiered at the festival "Duos de Dança no SESC", in Rio de Janeiro. With this piece Beltrão made his official début in the contemporary dance scene in Rio. It was also a turning point on the choreographer's career – the first step to set streetdance free from sheer virtuosity and from the patterned reproduction of choreographic structures that are inherent to this dance form. Since then his research is oriented by the exchange between hip hop and the reflexive and inventive environment of contemporary dance. At the end of the year Beltrão assumed the sole direction of Grupo de Rua when his partner Rodrigo left the company to develop his own projects.

Grupo de Rua started touring internationally in 2002, with presentations at Rencotres Choreographiques de Seine-Saint-Denis, MC93 in Paris and the festival "Danças na Cidade" in Lisbon. In 2003, the company was invited by the French choreographer Jérôme Bel to perform at Klapstuk Festival in Belgium. In the same year, the company performed at Springdance (Utrecht), Ile Danse (Ajaccio), Tanz im August (Berlin) Internationales Tanzfest (Hanover), Yokohama Dance Summit (Japan), Hebbel Theater (Berlin) and Opkomst (Utrecht). The company has also performed at La Ferme du Buisson (Noisiel), Kunsten Festival des Arts (Brussels), Ruhrfestspiele (Recklinghausen), Tanztage (Bern), CSS Theater (Udine), Rencontres de la Villette (Paris), Kampnagel (Hamburg) and at the Festival Breakin' Walls (Amsterdam).

Besides his creative work as a choreographer, Beltrão also works in many other different spheres to promote street dance, whether working as a curator or taking part on social programs. He has also written the essay Breakdance: Fissão e a Reação em cadeia for the book Lições de Dança 2, published by Beltrão's university, UniverCidade.

In 2002, Beltrão was selected Upcoming Choreographer of the Year and the company is considered "one of the most creative of the new generation" by O GLOBO (second largest Brazilian newspaper). BATTETANZ YEARBOOK selected him Upcoming Choreographer of the Year in 2005.

Grupo de Rua, founded in 1996 in RJ, Brazil, and directed by choreographer Bruno Beltrão, has been establishing a path in the national and international dance scene supported by the way with which articulates hip hop and contemporary dance. In the beginning the company's vocabulary was solely the street dances but GR is soon aiming the convergence of the popular and the academic knowledge. In 2002 GRN started a fruitful international career as guests of some of the most important festivals and theatres in more than 14 countries worldwide. GR's last piece, was co-produced by 7 European institutions and festivals: Springdance Festival, Tanzhaus, Hebbel Theater, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Wiener Festwoche, Festival d'Automne and La Ferme duBuisson. Through this production Beltrão was awarded upcoming choreographer of the year by one of Europe's leading dance publications, the magazine Ballettanz.

"H3"

They are Brazilian. The street has long been their battleground. Veterans of hip-hop, dance is the very air they breathe – the rarefied air of the city. In taking over the stage, the nine desperados of the Grupo de Rua expand their own vital space. Acclaimed in Europe, the young choreographer Bruno Beltrão takes pleasure in shattering preconceived ideas about street dance, and is presenting his work in Montreal for the first time. Put through the wringer, reinvented and stripped of the clichés of the genre, his work is a remarkable fusion of hip-hop and contemporary dance. Gone are the musical and visual stereotypes of hip-hop, the discourse of sheer virtuosity dispensed with. With his most recent work *H3*, Beltrão has broken another taboo by exploring otherness, the territory of the brother who is not necessarily the enemy. Like a powerful yet fragile commando unit, his dancers create astonishing duets and trios as they collide and balance against each other. The essence of hip-hop is retained, as the choreographer preserves its unmistakable figures and the high voltage energy of his breakdancers. An incredible tour de force!